



Chairperson's Message - Dr. Sook Wilkinson

Welcome to this quarterly newsletter about MAPAAC happenings!

Governor Snyder recently appointed four new commissioners. They are Asim Alavi, Dr. Jamie Hsu, Henry Tanaka and Toshiki Masaki. They are eager to share their expertise and resources on behalf of the Commission.

Our recent strategic planning retreat, facilitated by Dr. Jamie Hsu, allowed us to develop and adopt our 2013 strategic goals. These are based on the mandates spelled out in House Bill 6172 – Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission Act. You can learn more on our website: www.michigan.gov/mdcr (Other Commissions/MAPAAC).

Please **save the date** of May 14th for the Capitol Celebration of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The event is being co-hosted by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, and Representative Sam Singh. For the first time this year, we will present MAPAAC Awards to two outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to our state.

Ms. Kiran Ahuja, the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), will deliver the keynote speech. She will also provide us with a briefing on the President's Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and WHIAAPI. Details on the day's events are at: [MAPAAC May 2013 Celebration Flyer](#).

Our Commission, with the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, presented a Forum on Immigration Reform. This took place at the International Institute in Detroit on April 25. It is important that we not only learn more about immigration from the experts, but also that we have the opportunity to listen to immigrants' stories.

On April 26, we partnered with the Healthy Asian Americans Project, the Ann Arbor Chinese Center of Michigan and the Michigan Korean Weekly to host an educational event on the Affordable Care Act (see the [ACA Flyer](#)).

Our events are always open to the public and free of charge. I hope to see many of you soon.

Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D.

Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission 2012 Highlights and Accomplishments

- On May 22, the Business Committee of MAPAAC held a forum to hear the issues faced by APA business owners. In doing so, awareness of these issues and concerns affecting APA businesses and the community has received legislative and state agency attention.
 - MAPAAC worked with the University of Michigan Business School to organize the India Business Conference held October 5, 2012 in Ann Arbor.
 - The Business Development Committee also promotes foreign investment through EB5 Investor Program for Michigan.
 - With APIAVote-Michigan, MAPAAC worked to add Bengali as one of six translated Asian languages for election ballots and voter registration forms. Bengali is now required under the Language Assistance Provision (Section 203) of Federal Voting Rights Act.
 - MAPAAC requested from state legislators a proclamation designating May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.
 - MAPAAC hosted a panel of international students from Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University. Students shared their experiences and provided valuable information and insights on their lives as international students attending American universities.
 - On March 24, 2012, a workshop called 'Paths to Success' was held at the University of Michigan, featuring six outstanding panelists sharing their experiences as entrepreneurs in Michigan.
 - The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission was a co-sponsor of the Vincent Chin 30th Year Remembrance held on June 23, 2012. The event keynote was Hastings Law School Dean Frank H. Wu, and OCA Executive Director Tom Hayashi was a featured speaker. The event, held at the Chinese Community Center, drew over 100 attendees, and was part of a nationwide Google Hangout that took place in over 30 locations and on the web.
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Meet our New Commissioners



Asim Iqbal Alavi

Director Life Cycle Management, AT&T Inc.

Member of Asian Pacific Islanders for Professional and Community Advancement (APCA)



Jaime Hsu, Ph.D.

Professor, Lawrence Technological University

Board Director, Health Alliance Plan



Toshiki Masaki

Public Policy and Special Project Manager, Government Affairs, Ford Motor Company

Vice Chair, Michigan Health Information Technology Commission

Member of Southeast Michigan Beacon Community Executive Board



Henry Tanaka, MFA, BFA

Dean of Campus Affairs, Oakland Community College

Member of Board of Directors, Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce

MAPAAC Champions

At our Heritage Month celebration in May, we will host the inaugural Champions Awards to recognize and highlight distinguished members of the APA Community for their contributions, leadership and service.

- **MAPAAC Award for Community Service and Philanthropy** — for community service and impact; demonstrated efforts in improving Asian Pacific American Heritage; philanthropy, trustworthiness and accomplishments.
- **Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood Award for Leadership and Advocacy** — for leadership and significant contribution in policy changes and advocacy; participation in local and state politics; engaged in volunteer work; strong voice of advocacy for human rights.

The first recipients of these awards are:

Senator Hoon Yung Hopgood Award for Leadership and Advocacy - Jayashree Kommareddi



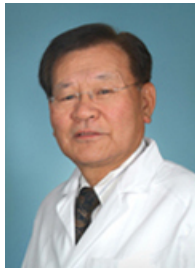
Jayashree Kommareddi is a long-time community activist and organizer with a focus on charitable and political activities. She was a member and later Vice Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Jayashree is a recipient of the Michigan State Medical Society Award for Community Service; the Martin Luther King, Jr., Award from the Michigan Democratic Party; and the President's Award from the Michigan Chapter of the

National Organization for Women.

She currently serves on many boards including the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic, the Genesee County Democratic Party, and the Mott Children's Health Center of Flint. She is also a member of the State Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights and is a Commissioner on the Michigan Women's Commission where she chairs the committee initiative to end sex trafficking of children.

MAPAAC Award for Community Service and Philanthropy - Dr. Dosyng Yoon



Dr. Dosyng Yoon was born in South Korea on November 7, 1944. Dr. Yoon came to America in 1973 and settled in Michigan when he began his practice here in 1977. Dr. Yoon is a practicing physician, specializing in psychiatry. He operates his private practice in Oakland County.

Dr. Yoon has been actively involved in the Korean-American community and related organizations in Metro Detroit since 1980.

Dr. Yoon has served as Chairman, Board of Directors of the Saejong Society, a member of the Board of Directors for the Korean-American Community of Metro Detroit, and President of the Korean-American Cultural Center of Michigan.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2013 By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

Each May, our Nation comes together to recount the ways Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) helped forge our country. We remember a time 170 years ago, when Japanese immigrants first set foot on American shores and opened a path for millions more. We remember 1869, when Chinese workers laid the final ties of the transcontinental railroad after years of backbreaking labor. And we remember Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have made our country bigger and brighter again and again, from Native Hawaiians to the generations of striving immigrants who shaped our history—reaching and sweating and scraping to give their children something more. Their story is the American story, and this month, we honor them all.

For many in the AAPI community, that story is one also marked by lasting inequality and bitter wrongs. Immigrants seeking a better life were often excluded, subject to quotas, or denied citizenship because of their race. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders endured decades of persecution and broken promises. Japanese Americans suffered profoundly under internment during World War II, even as their loved ones fought bravely abroad. And in the last decade, South Asian Americans—particularly those who are Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh—have too often faced senseless violence and suspicion due only to the color of their skin or the tenets of their faith.

This year, we recognize the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the 70th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act's repeal—milestones that helped mend deep wounds of

systemic discrimination. And with irrepressible determination and optimism, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have prevailed over adversity and risen to the top of their fields—from medicine to business to the bench. But even now, too many hardworking AAPI families face disparities in health care, education, and employment that keep them from getting ahead.

My Administration remains committed to addressing those disparities. Through the White House Initiative on AAPIs, we are working to ensure equal access to Federal programs that meet the diverse needs of AAPI communities. We are standing up for civil rights, economic opportunity, and better outcomes in health and education. We are fighting for commonsense immigration reform so America can continue to be a magnet for the best and brightest from all around the world, including Asia and the Pacific.

Meeting those challenges will not be easy. But the history of the AAPI community shows us how with hope and resolve, we can overcome the problems we face. We can reaffirm our legacy as a Nation where all things are possible for all people. So this month, as we recognize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are fulfilling that promise in every corner of our country, let us recommit to giving our children and grandchildren the same opportunity in the years ahead.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to visit <http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/aapi> and <http://asianpacificheritage.gov/> to learn more about the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA



Did you know that ...?

- On January 30, 2013, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Commission made a presentation at Troy High School. This event included presentation of a certificate signed by Governor Snyder honoring Mr. Fred Korematsu.

In 1942, 23-year-old Fred Korematsu refused to report to incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. He was arrested and convicted of defying the government's order, which he thought was unjust. He argued his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. He lost, but in 1983-1984, the 40-year-old case was reopened and overturned. In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Bill Clinton. Fred Korematsu continues to inspire people of all backgrounds and demonstrates the importance of speaking up about injustice.

- April 29 marked the 21st anniversary of the Los Angeles riots. These followed the acquittal of several police officers who had been accused of beating Rodney King, an African-American man pulled over for speeding. Korean Americans remember the riots as Sa-I-Gu – meaning ‘April 29’ – for their particularly devastating effects on Korean-owned businesses, estimated at about half of the \$800 million in property damage from the riots.

Commissioners

H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Connie M. Dang
Roland Hwang, J.D.
Mamatha Chamarthi
Asim Iqbal Alavi
Nasim H. Ansari
Willie DeChavez
Hannah Feikema
Mumtaz Haque
Jamie Hsu, Ph.D.
Tack Yong Kim
Anand Kumar
Guozhen Lu, Ph.D.
Ernestina DeLos Santos-Mac, M.D.
Toshiki Masaki
Henry Y. Tanaka
Ehsan Taqbeem
Jeffery Vang, Pharm. D.
Ramesh Verma
Peter Wong
Tsu-Yin Wu, Ph.D.